

**WEEK
END**

BUZZ



MY
weekend
with
Sarah
the
renovator



Adair Donaldson on the set of one of his confronting, realistic movie scenarios about young people making poor decisions.

THE YOUNG AND THE RECKLESS

One man is trying to prevent our teens from making tragic mistakes

By **FRAZER PEARCE**
frazer.pearce@capnews.com.au

IT's the last day of school and Adair Donaldson is about to speak to 250 of Queensland's toughest seniors. The headmaster has already warned him that

if he lasts more than 30 minutes and anyone is still left to listen, it will be a miracle. These kids are off to schoolies 2008 and they can't wait to be free. Two hours later, not one student has left the hall.

They are still pumping Adair Donaldson, an unassuming lawyer from Dalby, with questions about hot topics such as drink spiking, date rape, sexual assault, bar-room fights, drug use, binge drinking and underage drinking at parties.

Why? Because he has just shown them something very scary and very real. Their future, their very lives are at stake and one stupid, reckless decision under the influence of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36



**DELICIOUS
CHEESECAKE
TO DIE
FOR AT
JAMAICA BLUE**

INSIDE
■ Gardening guru Neil Fisher – P48
■ Wine appreciation with Max Crus – P48
■ Updates on our Lifestyle Challenge – P43
■ Travel and learn – P39

Deadly dangers of drinking touch raw nerve at schools

FROM PAGE 35

alcohol or a drug could destroy it.

He has produced six short films depicting various scenarios common to criminal acts committed by young, naive adults.

The movies touched a raw nerve last year when he started showing them to schools and concerned parents and now he is bringing his important message to Central Queensland, starting in Longreach next week, Rockhampton in late April and Capella in May.

There is nothing graphic or titillating about the scenes, but they are hard-hitting because kids can identify with the characters and real life examples.

"This concept is a masterpiece" is how rugby league super coach Wayne Bennett described Adair's educational program, Putting Youth in the Picture.

"All parents, youth and communities should take the opportunity to be involved and promote this project. It challenges communities to come together to discuss, confront and take ownership of these issues facing our society today."

Adair said the National Rugby League had purchased licences to use the training package for all players in 2009/2010 and more large private corporations look set to follow.



A bar scene from one of Adair Donaldson's confronting movies.

Since the program began last year, Putting Youth in the Picture has been shown to more than 4500 students, parents, athletes, employees and employers, and the response has been overwhelming.

"What started as a way of bringing about change in our local community (Dalby) has now led to an opportunity to bring about change throughout Australia," he said.

"We are getting steady requests for the training resource throughout Queensland but have also started receiving requests from New South Wales,

Victoria and South Australia.

"Audience reaction to the presentations has driven us

"This concept is a masterpiece

— Wayne Bennett

to develop the training package as we believe this is an opportunity for communities to come up with a solution together, rather than yet another government advertising campaign being imposed.

"We are not preaching abstinence nor are we sug-

gesting we have the solutions.

"What we can do is interact with the audience and provide them with information so that hopefully when the time comes they will make the right decisions.

"This is particularly important for young people in regional areas who are more than likely to have to leave the support and guidance of their family."

Adair's visit to Central Queensland is being supported by DrinkWise Australia, the Nation's peak evidence-based organisation that is focused on

IN THE PICTURE

Putting Youth in the Picture

Tuesday, April 28 at the Rockhampton PCYC. Four presentations. (If your organisation employs or has dealings with large groups of young people, the first two sessions are for you).

10am-noon

Community stakeholders, police, PCYCs, Queensland Rail, mining companies, Ergon.

Noon – 2pm

Secondary students' demonstration.

Community stakeholders, police, PCYCs, Queensland Rail, mining companies, Ergon.

3.45pm – 5.15pm

Presentation to school principals, teachers, P&C representatives and support staff.

6pm – 8pm

Presentation to parents and community.

Those wishing to attend, please reply by email, fax or phone prior to April 22 to John Fitzgerald, Health Promotion Officer, Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs Services (ATODS). Phone 4920 5500, fax 4927 9126 or email johnk_fitzgerald@health.qld.gov.au.

promoting a generational change towards a more responsible drinking culture in Australia.

DrinkWise CEO Chris Watters has acknowledged the uniqueness of the community-based program that focuses on social harm.

"DrinkWise Australia is an evidence-based organisation, and the feedback is clear on Adair's program – young people are captured and engaged in his program."

"It is remarkable the

support that Adair has received to date and it is also a tribute to the communities of Central Queensland who want to take ownership of the issues raised by Adair."

To find out more about the initiative, contact Adair Donaldson on 4659 9277 or visit www.puttingyouthinthepicture.com.



Josh Jones at the Oxford Hotel.

PHOTO: CHRIS ISON C127/0309/9

Publican reckons teens should see hard-hitting films

ROCKHAMPTON publican Josh Jones believes the films are so powerful they should be compulsory viewing for all teenagers.

The Oxford Hotel licensee is such a fan of the movies he has copies of them on his laptop computer.

And he never tires of playing them.

"They are hard-hitting, but what sets them apart is that they don't preach to kids or talk down to them.

"The situations are realistic and the films are brilliantly shot and edited to appeal to the right audience," he said.

Josh says the filmmaker, Brendan Busby, who has strong links to Rockhampton, has an instinctive touch for

communicating with kids."

He said the editing was fast-paced, the music cool and the characters

"They are hard-hitting, but what sets them apart is that they don't preach to kids or talk down to them

believable.

"All the films are about situational awareness and realistically show how easy it is for things to spiral out of control. Young people will watch them and be affected by them."

Josh thought they should

be shown in schools to audiences of 14 and 15.

"I know it's not a popular thing to say and many parents won't want to hear it, but this is the age when kids start drinking.

"They go to parties where alcohol is available and they are vulnerable.

"If you just aim the message at 18-year-olds you might be too late."

And he praised Adair Donaldson for sinking his funds and time into the project.

"I think it's great that Adair has done this," he said.

"There's nothing in it for him, but he's just a really nice guy and should be applauded for his efforts."

— Adrian Taylor